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Environmental
Protection Agency

Bureau of Water
2200 Churchill Road
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

June 1993

The Federal Clean Lakes Program

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An Overview

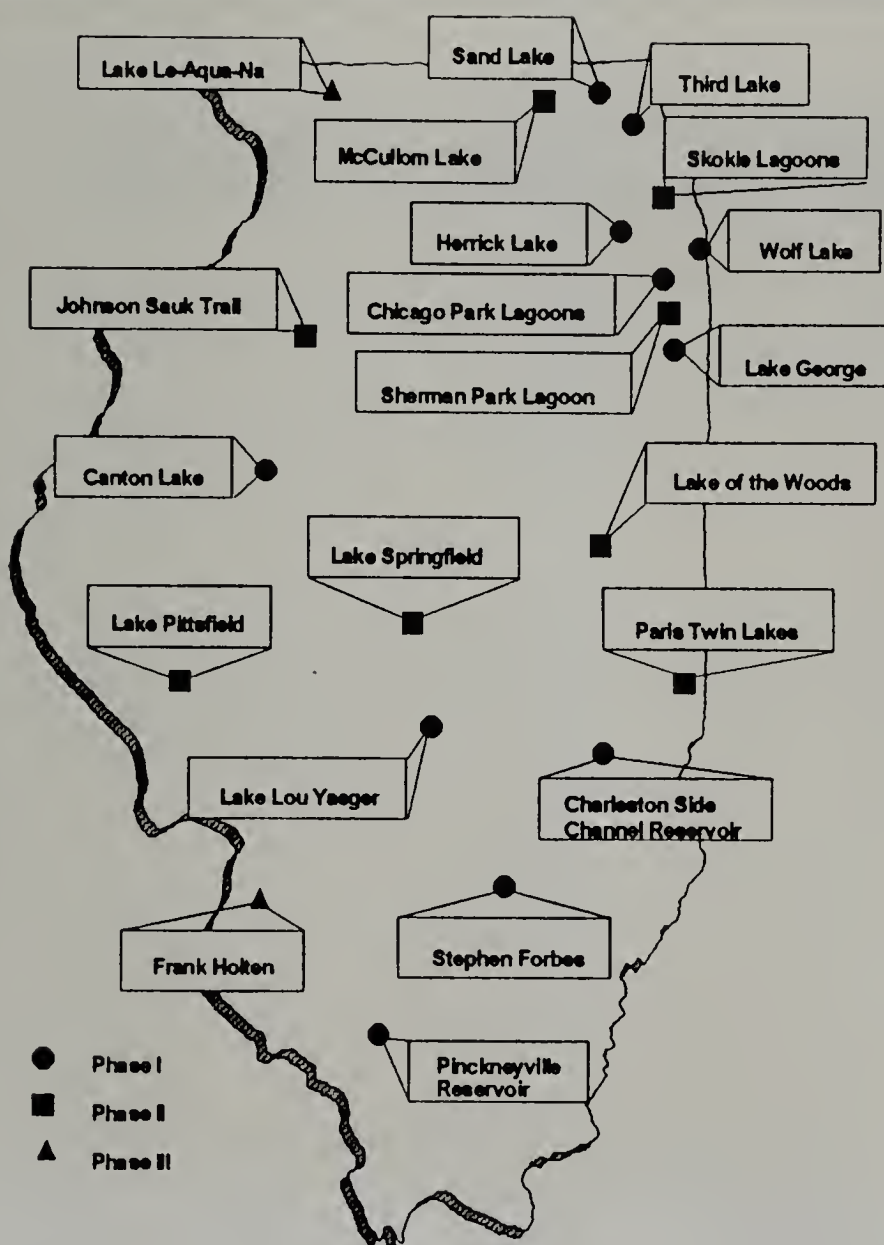
The Federal Clean Lakes Program (CLP) was established in 1977 pursuant to section 314 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The primary goals of the CLP are to control sources of pollution which affect the quality of publicly-owned lakes, and to protect and restore lakes which have deteriorated in quality. Many lakes and watersheds in Illinois and across the nation are being, and have been, protected with funds provided by the CLP.

The CLP in Illinois is a federal, state, and local partnership program involving: the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA); Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA); and local units of government. Each level of government has its' own set of responsibilities in overseeing the protection/restoration of lakes chosen for assistance.

Local entities which are eligible to receive assistance through this program are those which have ownership and/or management responsibilities for "publicly-owned freshwater lakes." Such a lake is defined as "a freshwater lake that offers public access to the lake through publicly-owned contiguous land so that any person has the same opportunity to enjoy non-consumptive privileges and benefits of the lake as any other person." In others words, any entity which either restricts public access, or has little to no ownership rights to the lake, is not eligible for funding. Municipalities, forest preserve districts, park districts, other state agencies (i.e. IDOC), and other public entities are those who have typically received grants in the past.

ENTITY	RESPONSIBILITIES
USEPA	Federal funding and administration; final project selection; product integrity; report results to Congress.
IEPA	State administration of federal funds; contract with local units of government; voucher payments; some lake monitoring; some lab analyses; product integrity.
Local	Local funding and contract administration; lake monitoring; historical information and data gathering; report development and integrity; practice implementation (Phase II); subcontractual agreement management.

Illinois Clean Lakes Projects



Use of Funds

Funding is typically provided in a two-pronged approach: Phase I and Phase II.

- In “Phase I,” moneys are used to identify causes and sources of pollution, and to develop and recommend “feasible” courses of action to correct problems. Activities typically associated with sample collection, sample analyses, purchase of needed equipment, information gathering, and report development are eligible for reimbursement.
- In “Phase II,” moneys are used to implement the courses of action as recommended in the “Phase I” study (a “Phase I” study must be completed before “Phase II” assistance can be made available). Shoreline stabilization, aquatic plant management, certain forms of algae control, fisheries rehabilitation, aeration/ destratification, nutrient inactivation or bottom sealing, sedimentation basins, watershed best management practices, and others, are typical reimbursable lake/watershed implementation activities. Costs associated with dredging, copper sulfate applications, and installation of pump stations, sewers, and treatment works to replace failing septic systems, are typically not reimbursable.

During “Phase I” of the program, total project costs cannot exceed \$100,000. Fifty percent (50%) of this money will come from the CLP, the other half must come from local or non-federal sources. “Phase II” has a similar cost share percentage, however, no specific maximum dollar amount is established.

“Phase III” post-restoration monitoring assistance is also available through the CLP. These projects typically begin three years after Phase II implementation has been completed. Monitoring for three years is conducted to determine the long term water quality and recreational use benefits derived from conducting Phase I and II projects.

Applying

In order to apply for assistance, a brief "pre-application" for funding must be sent to the IEPA by November 1 of each year. "Final applications" are due by December 1. The "Final Application" is usually a 10-15 page locally generated report which summarizes the following: division of labor and responsibility; milestone schedule; budget summary; mandatory information (i.e. location, physical characteristics, summary of data available, public access description, impaired uses, local interest in the project, scope of the project); and discretionary information (i.e. watershed characteristics, point sources pollution discharges, major nonpoint sources, anticipated restoration measures, and adverse environmental impacts).

For More Information

If you would like to find out more about the Federal Clean Lakes Program, and other IEPA lake related program activities, contact the IEPA Lakes Program at 217/782-3362.

Arranged by Tim Schaub, a 1993 Governor's Environmental Corp summer intern, IEPA, Bureau of Water, Lakes Program, Springfield, Illinois.

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